



# Leap Years

(CEFR A2-B1)

Age: 12 - 15

45 – 50 Minutes

February 2012

## Teacher's Notes

### Starting off

You could start the lesson with some revision of months in English. One way to do this would be to use the Extra Activity (anagrams) from this month's lower-level teen space lesson. Alternatively, revision of ordinal numbers in English would also be a useful starting point. You could focus on pronunciation of the 'th' sound, if this is particularly troublesome for your students

Move on to the discussion questions on the worksheet. First, give your own answer to question one (if you don't mind revealing your age!) so the students know what you expect from them and can use your answer as a model. Encourage lengthier discussion of question 3. After the discussion, explore some answers open-class before moving to the next task. Although it's unlikely, perhaps one of your students was born on February the 29<sup>th</sup>!

### Vocabulary 1

KEY

1. everyone = all people
2. occur = happen
3. orbit = to travel through space, in a circle round the earth or sun
4. accurate = correct
5. approximately = used with numbers to mean 'about' or 'around'
6. previous = the one before

### Vocabulary 2

KEY

1. orbit
2. approximately
3. occur
4. previous
5. accurate
6. everyone



## Before you read

Without revealing the answer, ask for a few suggestions open-class before students read and check.

## First Reading

This first reading should be a quick one. Encourage students to skim the text and check their ideas and not to worry about unknown words at this stage. Ask them to check in pairs before feedback.

## Second Reading

Students should read more slowly and carefully this time. Again, have them check in pairs before feedback.

KEY 1. 2016 2. Because it takes slightly longer than 365 days for the earth to orbit the sun / to keep our calendars accurate 3. Egypt 4. Either the previous day or the day after

## Language Work

Encourage the students to look in the text for the right combinations.

Part 1 KEY 1. on 2.on 3.on 4.in 5.in 6.in 7. in

Part 2 KEY 1. on 2.in 3.in 4.on

## Speaking

Question 3 will probably require some preparation time before the students are ready to speak, so allow for this in your lesson staging. Check that students understand *ideal*. They will need to use 'hypothetical would' in their answers, but rather than launching into a presentation of this language, point it out in the example, elicit that it comes before the main verb and then monitor as the students speak and check if they are using it correctly.

## Extra Activity

If time. To extend this, students swap partners.



## Follow on work

This topic links well to work on celebrations and special days. You could use the information on world festivals on the interactive map on the Teen Space website as a starting point. Students could research a particular festival and produce a poster about it, or alternatively give a short presentation to the class.